Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries. In order to ensure speedy disbursement of financial assistance, the Ministry has decentralized the disbursement procedure through banks under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries with effect from 01.04.2007.

Ministry has also been operating several other Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for modernization of abattoirs, setting up / up-gradation of food testing laboratories, creation of infrastructure facilities for human resource development, Research & Development in food processing sector, implementation of Quality Systems such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) / ISO 22000 systems besides other promotional and capacity building measures to encourage development of food processing industries. Moreover, the Government has taken several steps like tax reduction, waiver/reduction of excise duty, reduction of custom duty on specific food items with a view to encourage the growth of Food Processing Industries and make them more competitive.

Food processing industries in A.P.

1402.SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has conducted a survey in Andhra Pradesh for assessment and development of food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details of potential in Andhra Pradesh with regard to food processing sector;

(c) whether any food parks are proposed to be set up in that State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) The Government has conducted a survey to assess the feasibility of establishing Mega Food Park in Andhra Pradesh in the year 2007-08 which is essentially aimed at attracting entrepreneurs to invest in food processing sector by providing modern infrastructure. Andhra Pradesh has good potential for food processing industries based on the production of raw materials like fruits and vegetables, grains, oilseeds, poultry, fish etc. Based on the above survey, Chittoor District in the State has been identified as location for establishing one Mega Food Park. This Mega Food Park envisages to have an investment of about Rs.114 crore in common facilities and expected to leverage an investment about of Rs.218 crore in processing units. It is estimated that an annual turnover of about Rs.540 crore will be generated by the above Mega Food Park and will create approximately 45,000 employment opportunities (both direct & indirect).

New engineering and technical educational institutes in Jharkhand

1403.SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for setting up of new engineering and technical educational institutes in Jharkhand;